GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3277
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2016
Prize Distribution by ICAR
Sigriwal Shri Janardan Singh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference of farmers and prize distribution programmes were recently organized in Delhi on the occasion of Foundation Day of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR);

(b) if so, the details and purposes thereof;

(c) the number of farmers from across the country who were awarded during the last three years and the current year under these programmes, State/UT-wise including Bihar;

(d) whether the Government has reviewed the performance of ICAR, and if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the ICAR for benefitting the farmers in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) & (c): The various ICAR awards, including the awards to the farmers were given away on 16.7.2016 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has instituted the following four Annual Awards to recognize the notable and significant contributions of farmers in different areas of Agriculture and allied areas.
(i) Jagjivan Ram Abhnav Kisan Puruskar (Given at National (Rs. 1 Lakh) and Zonal levels (1 award of Rs. 50 Thousand per zone).
(ii) N.G. Ranga Farmer Award for Diversified Agriculture (One Award of Rs. 1.0 Lakh).
(iii) Haldhar Organic Farmer Award (One Award of Rs. 1 Lakh).
(iv) Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Antyodaya Krishi Puruskar (Given at National and Zonal Level) Given at National (Rs. 1 Lakh) and zonal levels (11 awards (1 per zone) of Rs. 50 Thousand).

Jagjeevan Ram Awards are given to recognize the significant contributions of the farmers in developing innovative ways of farming, the N.G. Ranga award is given for recognising the farmers contributions in the areas of successful adoption and the promotion of diversified farming models. Haldhar Organic Farmer Award, instituted in 2015 is given to recognize the unique contributions of the farmers in the area of organic farming. Pandit Deendayal Antyodaya Krishi Puruskar (1 award at national level and 11 awards at Zonal level) has been instituted during the current year (2016) to recognize the unique contributions made by the landless, small and marginal farmers in various agriculture related areas.

During the last three years and the current year, a total of 50 farmers from all over the country were awarded for their outstanding contributions in the areas of innovative farming, diversification in agriculture, organic farming and related spheres (Details given in Annexure-I).

(d) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) serves the technology and information needs of the farming community which constitute over half of the Indian population and predominantly cultivates small and marginal farms. Although the performance of the ICAR has not been reviewed in totality, the Government of India, keeping in view the changing Agricultural Research requirements of the country, constituted several committees under the chairmanship of eminent scientists during past 4 decades to study the organisational structure of the ICAR and suggest measures to further strengthen it. Gajendra Gadkar committee (1972), G. V. K. Rao committee (1988), Johl Committee (1995) and Mashelkar committee (2005) have made specific recommendations based on which reforms both at structural and functional level were introduced by the Government. Besides these, the performance of all ICAR Institutes is reviewed regularly by the Quniquennial Review Teams (QRTs) and the Research Advisory Committees (RACs) constituted by the Government of India. The functioning of the KVKs is also reviewed closely by holding scientific advisory committee meetings, workshops, midterm reviews and annual national conference of the KVKs. In addition, the performance of the ICAR Institutes and KVKs is also reviewed constantly at the apex level by the Secretary DARE & DG, ICAR through their respective subject matter divisions located within the council.

National Agricultural Research System (NARS) of the country comprising of 103 ICAR research institutes, 11 Agricultural Technology Application Research Institutes and 69 Agricultural Universities have developed a number of technologies in various fields of

Agriculture including, crop production, horticulture, natural resources management, dairying, poultry and fisheries sciences as a result of which the country experienced, green revolution, white revolution, yellow revolution and the pink revolution. Through the adoption of the improved varieties and the agro techniques, the productivity of crops/commodities including food grains have registered increases of several folds since 1950-51. India is now the largest producer of milk and second largest producer of wheat and rice in the world and is amongst the top exporters of rice. Development of short duration varieties of rice, sorghum, cotton, pigeon pea, chickpea, greengram, blackgram etc. has opened up avenues for multiple cropping systems and enhanced cropping intensity.

(e) A number of steps have been taken by ICAR to benefit the farmers of the country. The newly released varieties/ transferable technologies and the improved package of practices developed by the ICAR institutes are demonstrated at the Institute research farms as well as the farmers' fields and are also made available through respective Agriculture Technology Information Centres (ATICs) and other sale points established in various ICAR Institutes. Steps taken to increase breeder seed production have resulted in enhanced supply of quality seeds to the farmers. Advisory services on various agricultural technologies and package of practices have been strengthened through establishment of toll-free helplines, community radio stations as well as by organizing exhibitions, field days, kisan mela and distribution of literature in popular/local languages. To facilitate mechanization on small farms and to reduce the cost of farming operations, ICAR has developed a large number of improved equipment suitable for small and marginal farmers for unit operations which are being promoted through prototype feasibility testing and frontline demonstrations. Under Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav, launched by the Government, strong linkages between farmers and the scientists have been developed for smooth transfer of agricultural technologies at the farmer's field.

ICAR has established a network of 657 KVKs mandated for the assessment and demonstration of various agricultural technologies for their field application. Government of India, has approved an outlay of Rs.3900 crores during 12th Plan for further strengthening of existing KVKs and the establishment of new KVKs for the benefit of the farming community. Under Skilling India Initiative of the Government, ICAR has developed training programmes on imparting agriculture related specialised skills among farmers and educated youth to facilitate creation of additional jobs in rural areas and the avenues for higher income generation. KVKs are also partnering with the DAC&FW under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers welfare to analyze the soil samples and distribution of Soil Health Cards among the farming community across the country.

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